

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /029 W

----- 109776

P 201622Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8879

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0808

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV OPIC BB

SUBJ: OPIC INSURANCE (BARBADOS)-TRW, INC.

1. OPIC APPLICATION UNDER REFERENCE REFERS TO PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION BY TRW TO BEGIN MANUFACTURING SOME ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS IN BARBADOS TO SAVE ON U.S. LABOR COST. NO INVESTMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE ALTHOUGH TRW HAS SENT SURVEY TEAM TO BARBADOS.

2. PROPOSED PLANT WOULD BUILD DEVICES FOR CONTROLLING FLOW OF CURRENT WHICH WOULD THEN BE RETURNED TO U.S. AS COMPONENTS OF SOME COMPLETE PRODUCTS FINISHED IN U.S. THIS TYPE ASSEMBLY OPERATION IS COMMON IN BARBADOS AND A NUMBER OF US FIRMS HERE HAVE SIMILAR OPERATIONS. (WE REFER OPIC TO BARBADOS TRENDS REPORT DTD OCT, 1974).

3. ENTRY OF TRW PROJECT WOULD DOUBTLESSLY HAVE POSITIVE, SALUTORY EFFECT ON BARBADOS' ECONOMY WHICH IS NOW STAGNANT. (TWO US ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS CLOSED DOWN). TRW PLANT WOULD PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMY THROUGH PURCHASE OF GOODS/SERVICES. TRANSFER OF TRW JOBS FROM US TO BARBADOS IS ADVERSE ECONOMIC OCCURRENCE IN SENSE BUT TRW PLANT IS NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT ON US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

4. PROBLEMS HAVE OCCURRED HERE RECENTLY WITH SOME ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS. WHEN LOSS OF MARKETS OVER PAST YEAR RESULTED IN STAFF CUTS, LOCAL UNION OBJECTED TO TAX-FREE STATUS OF ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS, TO THEIR USE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

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AND TO ALLEGED OTHER SPECIAL TREATMENT RECEIVED. UNIONIZATION

HAS GIVEN RISE TO PROBLEM OF MANAGEMENT CONTROL IN SOME PLANTS
AND WORKER PRODUCTIVITY REMAINS PROBLEMATIC. NEVERTHERLESS,
MOST ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS HERE HAVE DONE WELL.

5. EMBASSY SEES NO REASON TO DENY TRW INSURANCE APPLICATION.
BRITTON

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NNN

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